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The Perils of PIP PREVENTING POISONING

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INTRODUCING
PIP, The Magic Safety Elephant!

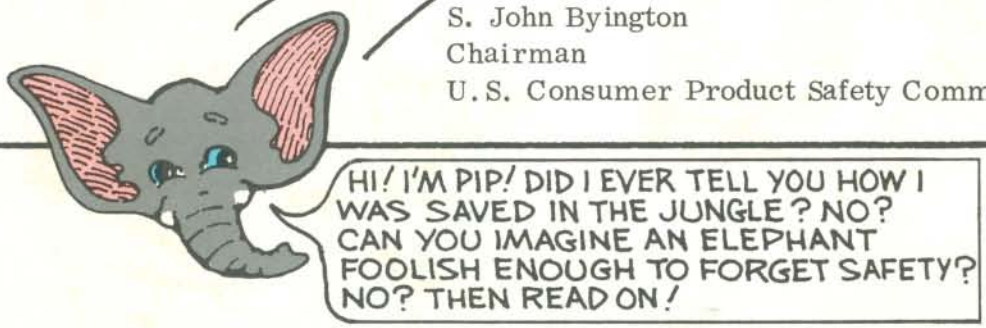
Each year an estimated 500,000 children -- many of them under 5 years of age -- accidentally swallow poisons and other harmful substances. Household cleaners and other chemical products found in the home, as well as overdoses of drugs and medications, are responsible for most of these poisonings. Little children simply do not know these products can be dangerous.

The Poison Prevention Packaging Act, administered by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, has helped reduce the number of children poisoned. This law requires many household products that have been, or may be, involved in childhood poisonings to be packaged in containers which most children cannot open. Such items as aspirin, turpentine, certain prescription drugs, furniture polishes, drain cleaners, lighter fluids, and many other household products are, or will be, available in safety packaging.

Remember, however, that safety packaging alone will not put an end to childhood poisonings. We all must remember to reclose packaging tightly, and to store all potentially poisonous products out of reach of little children -- even if the products are packaged with safety closures.

You can play an important part in preventing poisonings of little children for whom you babysit and of younger sisters and brothers. Take care to keep medicines and dangerous household products out of their reach. Teach younger children to always ask first before eating anything new. Learn what to do in case of a poisoning. Your help may save a life.

S. John Byington
Chairman
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



I HAD JOURNEYED BY STEAMER TO THE TORRID JUNGLES OF SOUTH AMERICA TO VISIT SOME OLD FRIENDS... I WAS LOOKING OVER THE NEW "NEIGHBORHOOD" WHEN...

PIP! YOU DUMBO! ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS PLUS WATER EQUAL DANGER! THE CURRENT WOULD ZAP RIGHT THROUGH YOU! DON'T WANT BARBECUED HOOVES, DO YOU?!
PLOP!
OTHER SIMILAR EPISODES OCCURRED AND THAT'S HOW I LEARNED ABOUT SAFETY. NOW I AM A MAGIC ELEPHANT FLYING AROUND KEEPING KIDS SAFE!
SO I'M ASKING BABY SITTERS, BIG BROTHERS, OLDER SISTERS, AND OTHER KID-WATCHERS TO BE AWARE OF HAZARDS SUCH AS THE ONES IN THESE STORIES!
MY PILL BOTTLES ARE EMPTY! LET'S GET SOME MORE SO WE CAN PLAY DOCTOR!
PLAY-DOC
I'M SURE THERE ARE SOME UP HERE JUST LIKE THE CANDY ONES IN YOUR DOCTOR KIT!
2

STOP!
!
WHO ARE YOU!

I'M PIP! MY JOB IS TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM DANGEROUS THINGS!

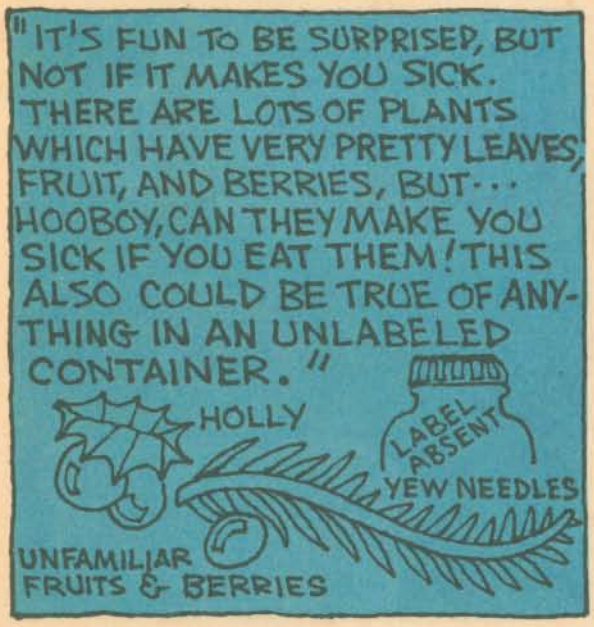
PLAYING DOCTOR IS FUN, BUT PLAYING WITH REAL MEDICINE CAN SPOIL YOUR FUN! MEDICINE CAN MAKE YOU SICK IF YOU TAKE IT AT THE WRONG TIME AND IN THE WRONG AMOUNTS!
BEING SICK IS SURE NO FUN!
I'LL SAY!
THUMP!
DOC

Medicine's not Candy
Only adults give out medicine
Read Warning Labels
Keep Original Containers
Not Sure? Never Eat
HE'S WRITING WITH SOAP, BUT I HAVEN'T LEARNED TO READ YET!
THEY'RE RULES TO KEEP US WELL— I'LL READ THEM TO YOU...

DO YOU KNOW WHAT PIP MEANS BY: "MEDICINE'S NOT CANDY"?
YES, IF YOU EAT MEDICINE LIKE CANDY, IT CAN MAKE YOU SICK LIKE THIS!

ONLY ADULTS CAN GIVE OUT MEDICINE

KEEP ORIGINAL CONTAINER.



THIS IS A SORT OF TRICKY CONTAINER, BUT IT HAS A SERIOUS PURPOSE. MOST CHILDREN CAN'T OPEN IT, BUT ADULTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO. THIS PROTECTS CHILDREN WHO DON'T KNOW THE THINGS YOU KNOW ABOUT POISON PREVENTION! WISE PARENTS ALWAYS LOOK FOR CHILD-RESISTANT CONTAINERS WHEN BUYING DANGEROUS PRODUCTS.

MOM USES A SPOON TO DIP IT OUT BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE DOES WITH IT!
Silver Polish
KLEEN-O Drain Cleaner

SUDDENLY...
HOLD IT, KIDS!
WHO ARE YOU?
WHOOSH!
WHOOSH!

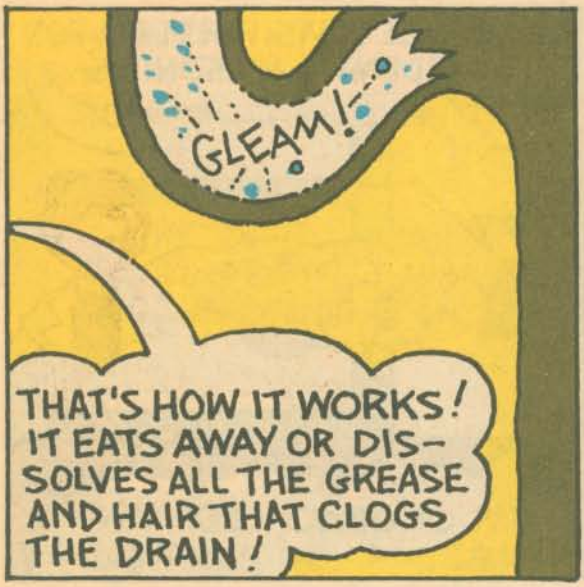
!
I'M PIP, A WATCH ELEPHANT, ONLY I WATCH FOR SAFETY HAZARDS, NOT BURGLARS! PEGGY, YOU PAY ATTENTION! BABY SITTERS CAN ALSO HELP!

THIS STUFF WOULD HURT YOU TERRIBLY IF IT GOT INTO YOUR MOUTH OR EVEN ON YOUR SKIN!
THEN WHY IS IT IN THE KITCHEN?
YEAH WHY?
TO CLEAN THE DRAIN!

I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT DRAIN CLEANER DOES INSIDE THE PIPES...

KEEN!
NOW! WATCH THAT CURVED PIPE; I'LL USE MAGIC SO YOU CAN SEE THROUGH IT!

FIZZ....
SIZZLE...
FIZZ-Z-Z
FIZZ
HEY! IT'S EATING AWAY WHAT'S STOPPING UP THE DRAIN...
WOW!


GLEAM!
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS! IT EATS AWAY OR DISSOLVES ALL THE GREASE AND HAIR THAT CLOGS THE DRAIN!

DRAIN CLEANER WILL DO THE SAME TO YOU IF SWALLOWED!
OH! THAT WOULD HURT!

WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED THE KIDS WOULD GET UNDER THE SINK?!
GEE, PIP, WE'RE GLAD YOU STOPPED US!
BE GLAD YOU DIDN'T TASTE IT! IT WOULD REALLY BURN YOUR MOUTH AND HURT TERRIBLY! IT CAN ALSO BURN A PERSON'S EYES!

SO NOW HOW DO FEEL ABOUT PLAYING WITH THINGS WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE?
GEE, IT'S REALLY DUMB!
YEAH, DUMB!
SINCE THE OVEN CLEANER ALSO WORKS BY DISSOLVING GREASE, IT TOO WILL BURN IF IT GETS ON YOUR SKIN OR INTO YOUR EYES OR MOUTH!
OVEN CLEANE
EVEN ADULTS CAN HURT THEMSELVES IF THEY AREN'T CAREFUL! THIS CAN BE AVOIDED BY READING AND FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIONS ON THE LABEL!
DIRECTION
THE LABEL LISTS FIRST AID FOR AN ACCIDENTAL POISONING.
·FIRST AID·
IT'S GOOD TO KEEP THE LABEL IF YOU CAN READ!
PLOP!
IT'S SAFEST TO PUT DANGEROUS PRODUCTS ON A HIGH SHELF, OR LOCK UP THE CABINET UNDER THE SINK!
THERE ARE SIGNS WHICH PARENTS OR YOU OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS CAN PUT ON CONTAINERS THAT MEAN: "KEEP AWAY". CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POISON CENTER!

FROM NOW ON WHEN I'M SITTING, I'LL CHECK THE HOUSE FOR HAZ-ARDS AND I'LL WATCH THE KIDS MORE CLOSELY. I DON'T WANT THEM TO GET HURT!
ATTAGIRL!

BUT, REMEMBER··· NOT ALL DANGEROUS PRODUCTS MAY BE LABELED AS POISON.

LET'S PLAY WITH MY NEW RAY GUN! WE'LL PRETEND IT DISSOLVES US LIKE OVEN CLEANER!
YEP... PLAY, BUT DON'T HURT!

SOON AFTER IN AN INNER CITY HOME...
2·2o2 2
TOOTH MARKS

FLAKING PAINT

THESE THINGS LOOK LIKE CEREAL!

JOHNNY, YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING CROSSER EVERY DAY!
GIMMEE! IT'S MINE! MINE!
NO!
AFTER EATING PAINT FLAKES FOR A FEW MONTHS...

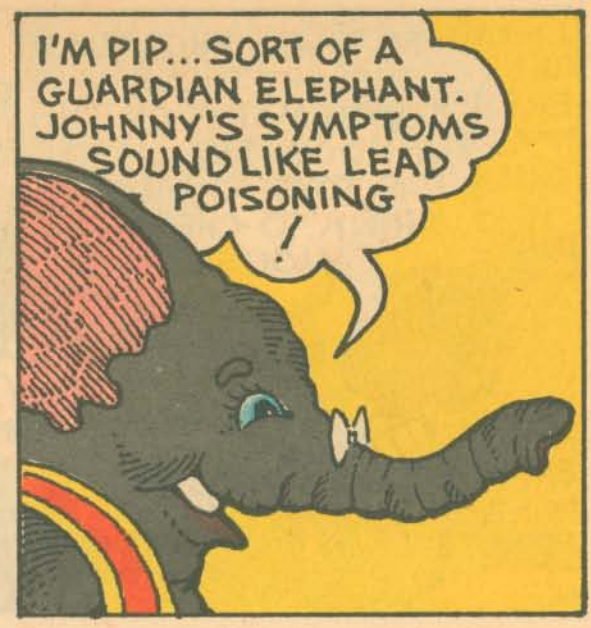
MY TUMMY STILL HURTS! I... I DON'T FEEL GOOD.

JOHNNY'S PUSHING HIS PLATE AWAY, AND HE'S HARDLY TOUCHED HIS FOOD... I WONDER IF HE'S COMING DOWN WITH THE "FLU"?
I DON'T KNOW BUT HE SEEMS TO BE GETTING SICKER ALL THE TIME!
DON'T WANT THIS FOOD...
BUMP

NOW LOOK AT THAT! MAYBE HE NEEDS VITAMINS?
I WISH I KNEW FOR SURE!

HI! I WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE SOONER, BUT I HAD TO RESCUE A MAN FROM A LAWNMOWER!

A LAWNMOWER?!
SAY, JUST WHO ARE YOU, ANY WAY?


I'M PIP... SORT OF A GUARDIAN ELEPHANT. JOHNNY'S SYMPTOMS SOUND LIKE LEAD POISONING!

HOW CAN WE FIND OUT FOR SURE IF HE HAS LEAD POISONING?
ONLY A DOCTOR CAN TELL FOR SURE, SO TAKE HIM TO YOURS OR TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM OF THE NEAREST HOSPITAL!
Z·Z·Z·Z·Z

DO IT RIGHT AWAY! LEAD POISONING MUST BE TREATED EARLY IF IT IS TO BE CURED!
Z·Z·Z·Z·Z

THIS IS AN OLD HOUSE; IT'S PROBABLY BEEN PAINTED WITH LEAD-BASED PAINT, THEN JOHNNY CHEWED ON SOME PAINTED SURFACES.
BUT HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?

YES, THAT'S PROBABLY IT! I THOUGHT THOSE WERE TOOTH MARKS ON THE WINDOW SILL; I CHECKED THE TOYS — I DIDN'T THINK TO CHECK THE HOUSE!

THIS BOY IS GOING TO SEE THE DOCTOR FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!

DON'T WAIT 'TIL MORNING. TAKE HIM NOW AND ALLYSIA TOO! MANY KIDS SHOW NO SYMPTOMS UNTIL POISONING IS SEVERE!

WELL, WE CERTAINLY DON'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN AGAIN! WHAT CAN WE DO TO PREVENT IT?

THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS THAT CAN BE DONE; SOME ARE HARDER THAN OTHERS. YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION THAN I CAN GIVE YOU HERE!

LOOK AT THE BACK OF THIS BOOK ~ THERE YOU WILL FIND DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO GET INFORMATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF LEAD POISONING.

SOME LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CAN CHECK YOUR HOME FOR LEAD PAINT.

A FEW DAYS LATER, OUT WEST, THIS HAPPENED...
LET'S PLAY INDIAN!
I AM INDIAN! I DON'T WANT TO PLAY INDIAN!

LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN HERE!

THESE LOOK PRETTY... I WONDER WHAT THEY ALL ARE FOR.
WOW! LOOK AT THE NEAT BOTTLES AND STUFF!

JEKYLL AND HYDE ARE SCARY LIKE DRACULA, AREN'T THEY?
I KNOW WHAT! LET'S PLAY MAD SCIENTIST OR JEKYLL AND HYDE!

HALLO! I AM ZEE MAHD ZIENTEEST! I VILL GIF YOU DR. JEKYLL VEN I DREENK THEES POTION!
OOOOH! BE CAREFUL, RALPH!

PUT THAT BACK!
RALPH! LOOK!
HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

I KNOW YOU! ROSIE TOLD ME YOU'RE PIP, THE MAGIC ELEPHANT WHO KEEPS KIDS SAFE!

RIGHT! THAT'S WHO I AM, AND THAT'S PAINT THINNER IN THAT BOTTLE. IT'S POISON!
WELL, IT'S IN A SOFT DRINK BOTTLE SO, I THOUGHT IT'D BE SAFE TO DRINK!

PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER, NEVER PUT PAINT THINNER OR OTHER POISONS IN FOOD CONTAINERS!
GEE, PIP, RALPH WAS ALMOST DR. SICK JEKYLL!
DR. VERY SICK JEKYLL, YOU MEAN!

LET'S PLAY A GAME CALLED: "POISON PROOF"!
HOW DO YOU DO THAT, PIP?

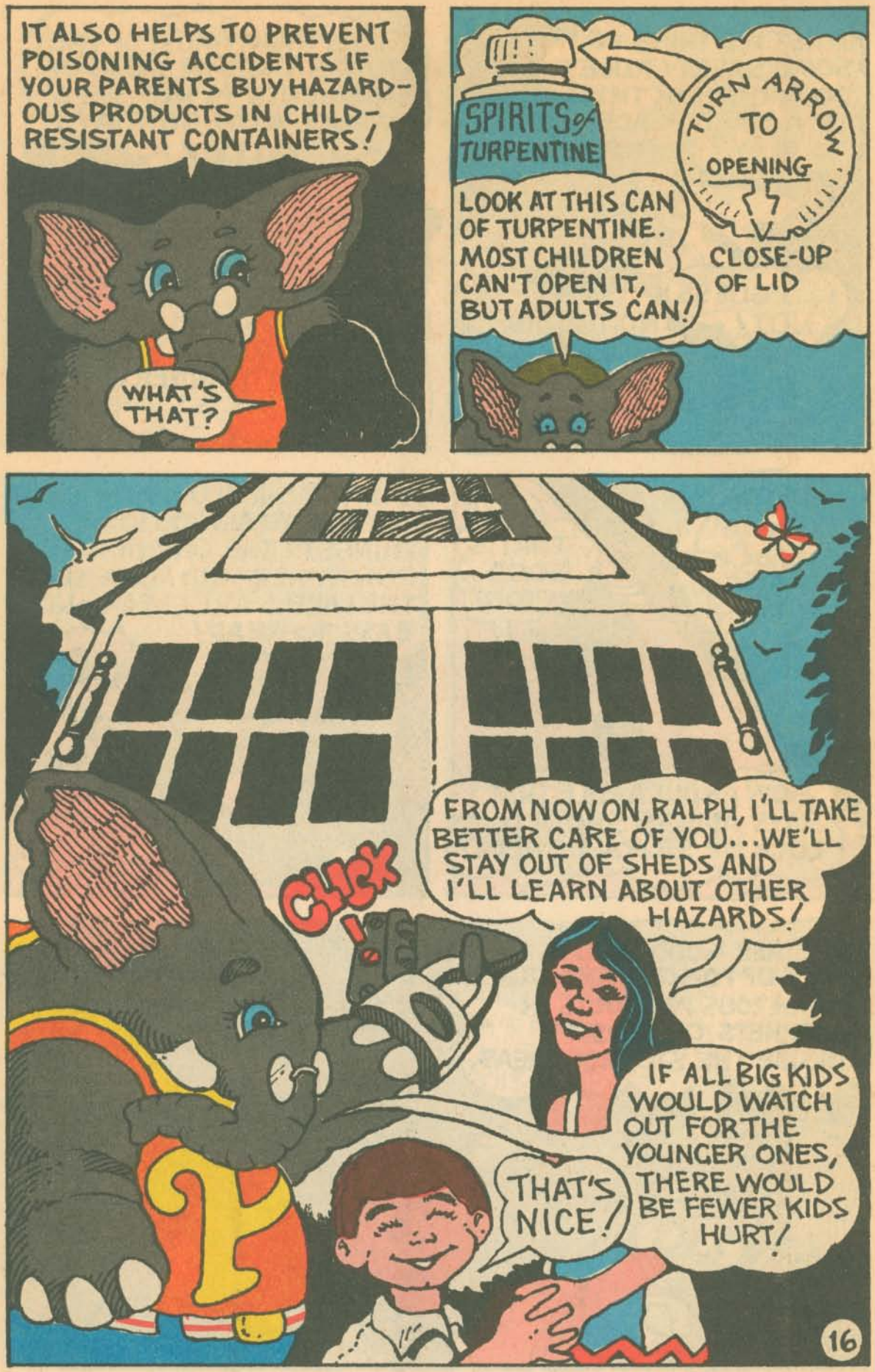
FIRST, WE THINK OF SOME SAFETY RULES. DO YOU THINK THIS IS A SAFE PLACE TO PLAY?
I... I GUESS NOT!
NO, THAT STUFF MUST ALL BE DANGEROUS!

THAT'S RIGHT! MOST OF THE STUFF STORED IN SHEDS OR BASEMENTS IS NOT SAFE TO PLAY WITH, SO STAY OUT!
SO STAY OUT OF PLACES WHERE CHEMICAL STUFF LIKE PAINT THINNER OR TURPENTINE IS STORED!

CLOSE
PUSH DOWN AND TWIST TO OPEN
OPEN
HEY! THAT'S GOOD TOO!
HOW ABOUT A RULE THAT SAYS ADULTS SHOULD LOCK UP STORAGE SHEDS?

AND YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR PARENTS TO ALWAYS KEEP THINGS IN THE ORIGINAL CONTAINER AND MAKE SURE THE LABELS ARE CLEAN AND EASY TO READ!
GLUG... GLUG.. GLUG...

ANOTHER GOOD RULE IS TO LOCK UP POISONS AND OTHER DANGEROUS PRODUCTS IN CABINETS OR CLOSETS INSIDE THE STORAGE AREAS.
Nails
NUTS BOLTS



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PIP'S POINTERS FOR POISON PREVENTION

Keep all hazardous substances out of children's reach. Always use child resistant containers, but do not depend on them alone for protection. Lock up medicine cabinets and storage cupboards.

Remember that the label is vitally important. Read all labels and follow the directions to the letter. Remember all dangerous chemicals are not necessarily labeled poison. Incorrect use can be dangerous.

Do not store poisonous products in food or drink containers. Keep in their original containers.

Caution children under your care to avoid eating or even putting any of the following in their mouths: unknown plants, leaves, berries, any unknown or suspicious substance.

Use cleaning fluids with adequate ventilation. Avoid breathing the vapor from these chemicals.

Parents should date all medicines and other drugs when they buy them. Never take medicine from an unlabeled bottle. Preserve the labels on medicine bottles by covering them with transparent tape.

Only the person for whom the medicine is prescribed should take that medicine. Never share prescriptions.

Parents should always check with the physician before giving medicine to infants and young children.

Never give or take medicine in the dark; always read the label and follow the directions exactly.

Never tell children that medicine is candy.

Store medicines separately from other household products.

Never take medicines in front of children. Remember that youngsters tend to imitate grown-ups every chance they get.

When an illness is over, pour the leftover medicine in the sink or flush down the toilet. Rinse the container, reseal, and put in the trash.

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In the event of an accident, immediately call a physician, hospital, poison control center, or rescue squad.

Write these emergency numbers here and keep the list by your telephone or where it can be quickly located in an emergency.

Doctor _____

Poison Control Center _____

Hospital Emergency _____

Rescue Squad _____

For further information on poison prevention in general and for details on preventing lead poisoning from old paint, write to:

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Office of Communications
Washington, D. C. 20207

In the continental United States, call the toll-free safety hotline 800-638-2666. Maryland residents only, call 800-492-2937.

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